

Army Chief of Staff presents Kerwin Award

On page 2: 29th ID Departure Ceremony

Gate City unit recognized as best in the Army Guard



Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., Chief of Staff of the Army, presents the Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. Readiness Award for the Army's Most Outstanding National Guard Unit to the senior leaders of the 1030th Transportation Battalion Oct. 26 in Washington, D.C.

The Virginia National Guard's Gate City-based 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group has been recognized as the most outstanding Army National Guard battalion in the country for the 2009 training year and was presented the General Walter T. Kerwin Award Oct. 26 at Association of the United States' Annual Meeting in Washington, DC during the Eisenhower Luncheon.

While the battalion was recognized with the award, Lt. Col. Doug Messner, commander of the battalion during the 2009 training year, explained that it was really a reflection of the state of readiness of the battalion's subordinate companies, many that were preparing for possible overseas federal mobilizations. The battalion's companies are located in Blackstone, Emporia, Gate City, Rocky Mount and Martinsville.

"It is recognition of leadership at the company level, from the company commander down to the squad leader," Messner said.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/KerwinAward.html>

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Virginia aviation battalion prepares for upcoming deployment

Soldiers from the Sandston-based 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment conducted an Aviation Training Exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. Oct 13-22 as part of the validation process for their scheduled federal duty in Iraq in February.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/224thtraining.html>

Powhatan engineers recognized by the Richmond City Council

Soldiers from Powhatan's 180th Horizontal Construction Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 91st Troop Command were recognized at the Richmond City Council meeting Oct. 25 for their work clearing debris and undergrowth in the Cannon Creek Parkway in Richmond during their annual training in July.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/nov10/citycouncil.html>

Bowling Green-based bridge company fields new equipment

The Virginia National Guard's Bowling Green-based 189th Multi-Role Bridge Company has increased the speed and weight capacity of its bridging capability with new equipment fielding conducted Oct. 18-28.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/nov10/189thnewbridges.html>

Danville-based unit competes for national food service award

The Virginia National's Guard best field kitchen operation from Headquarters Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion competed for national-level honors in the U. S. Army's 2010 Philip A. Connelly Awards for Excellence in Army Food Service with the preparation of a lunch meal Oct. 30 at Fort Pickett.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/nov10/429thConnelly.html>

Mark Your Calendars!

Nov. 5 & 6: Free Family Flu Vaccination Day at Fort Pickett

The Virginia Guard Medical Command will hold a Family Flu Vaccination Day at Fort Pickett from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Building 1700. If you have any questions contact 434-294-1544 or 434-298-5759 on Saturday..

Nov. 10: Castles Landing Zone Dedication

Fort Pickett will host a dedication ceremony for the Castles Landing Zone at 1 p.m.

Nov. 13: 116th Infantry 5K Race

The 19th Annual 116th Infantry Regiment 5K Race will be held at Gypsy Hill Park starting at 7:30 a.m. All proceeds go to the 116th Regimental Museum. For more information, call (540) 851-4157 or email vanessa.amaya@us.army.mil.

29th ID Soldiers conduct departure ceremony

Friends and family said farewell to Soldiers of the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division during a deployment ceremony Nov. 3 for the 44 Virginia Guardsmen heading to Afghanistan to assist Afghan National Army and Police. The Virginia Soldiers will be joined by 28 Maryland Guard Soldiers, also from the 29th Division on the mission as part of the Afghan Development Assistance Bureau.

The ceremony took place on the parade field outside the division headquarters and was attended by senior leaders of the Virginia Guard as well as several former commanders of the 29th, including current Adjutant General of Virginia Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., retired Maj. Gen. Grant L. Hayden and retired Maj. Gen. Tommy Thompson. The Soldiers stood in formation before their loved ones and the senior leaders while the adjutant general and Maj. Gen. Frank E. Batts, Jr., the current division commander, addressed the troops and thanked them for their willingness to answer the nation's call to arms.

"I envy these young Soldiers here - they are part of the greatest army, the best lead, best equipped, best trained army in the world today and I'm really proud of them," said Long. "I envy them because they are going to get a chance to do what they raised their hand and swore to do when they said 'I solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic.'"

Batts, who will not be leading the Soldiers on the mission, noted the vast amount of leadership and experience the unit will be providing during the deployment. "Although I am not allowed to deploy with this fine team, I am confident in knowing that the 29th Infantry Division is providing the very best in terms of leadership to this unit," he said.

"I'm also confident in knowing that you, this entire ADAB team, is made up of the very best and brightest that the 29th Infantry Division, the commonwealth of Virginia, and the state of Maryland have to offer," said Batts. "ADAB team members, I thank each and every one of you for living up to the promise you made when you began your military career; that you would willingly answer the call to serve your nation when called, regardless of the personal sacrifice that you must make."

"Rest assured in knowing that your loved ones will receive the very best possible training, equipment and support as they embark on this mission," Batts said. "Also rest assured, that as part of the 29th Infantry family, you will also receive the very best service that the Virginia National Guard and the U.S. Army can provide you as you endure this year without your loved ones."

The ADAB team will fall under the command and control of the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command. The IJC was assembled in 2009 and reached full operational command status the same year. The command is currently led by Lt. Gen. David Rodriguez.

Prior to the departure ceremony, the Soldiers conducted training focused on individual Soldier skills to prepare for their upcoming duty in Afghanistan. The Soldiers spent two weeks at Fort Pickett



The departure ceremony for Virginia Guard Soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division deploying to Afghanistan provided one final opportunity to spend time with friends and family.

focusing on Army Warrior Task Category I training, then spent a week at several different locations conducting online training and finalizing administrative requirements prior to the start of the deployment. The individual Army Warrior Tasks included weapons qualification, day and night land navigation, basic first aid skills, employing hand grenades, tactical movement under direct fire and reacting to improvised explosive devices.

"The officers and noncommissioned officers for this mission were pretty much handpicked for their expertise," said Col. Will O'Neill, the 29th ID Deputy Commanding General for Maneuver and senior officer for the mission.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/nov10/ADABdeparture.html>

MORE ON THE WEB

Virginia OCS graduates 14 at Fort Pickett

<http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/OCSgraduation.html>

New warrant officers welcomed

<http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/WOrecognition.html>

Jeff Gordon honors Guard families at Martinsville

<http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/Martinsvillerrace.html>

Central Virginia Area Combined Federal Campaign

<http://cfcofva.org/>

Virginia National Guard on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/VirginiaGuard>

<http://www.facebook.com/vanguardpao>

Virginia Guard Public Affairs Flickr Photostream

<http://flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao>

Virginia Guard Public Affairs YouTube Channel

<http://www.youtube.com/vanguardpao>

Virginia Guard Public Affairs on Twitter

<http://twitter.com/vanguardpao>